



# WRITE A SERF

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The Service Entry Resource Format (SERF) is a de-facto standard used to create directory entries that describe Earth science data services/applications. Several fields are free text or unrestricted, while others require the use of controlled keywords. Seven fields, denoted in orange, are **required**. Those in yellow are **highly recommended**. Fields in green are **recommended**, but not required and may expand upon or clarify the service.

Field:

Definition:

<b>Entry ID:</b>	The "Entry_ID" is the unique identifier of the metadata record.
<b>Entry Title:</b>	The "Entry_Title" is the title of the service described by the metadata.
<b>Science Parameters (Science Keywords):</b>	The "Science_Parameters" field allows for the specification of Earth science keywords that are representative of the data service being described.
<b>Service Parameters (Service Keywords):</b>	The "Service_Parameters" field allows for the specification of Earth science services keywords that are representative of the services, tools, and/or resources being described.
<b>ISO Topic Category:</b>	The "ISO_Topic_Category" field is used to identify the keywords in the ISO 19115 - Geographic Information Metadata Topic Category Code List.
<b>Service Provider:</b>	The "Service_Provider" is the service provider, organization, or institution responsible for distributing the service.
<b>Summary:</b>	The "Summary" field provides a brief description of the service along with the purpose of the service.
<b>Metadata Name:</b>	The "Metadata_Name" is used to identify the current SERF standard name. This field is auto-populated in docBUILDER.
<b>Metadata Version:</b>	The "Metadata_Version" is used to identify the current SERF metadata standard. This field is auto-populated in docBUILDER.
<b>Service Citation:</b>	The "Service_Citation" field allows the author to properly cite the service provider.
<b>Personnel:</b>	"Personnel" defines the point of contact for more information about the service or the metadata.
<b>Instrument (Sensor Name):</b>	The Instrument or "Sensor_Name" is the name of the instrument used to acquire the data related to the service. There are 3 categories of instruments, with additional levels of hierarchical classifications.
<b>Platform (Source Name):</b>	The Platform or "Source_Name" is the name of the platform used to acquire the data related to the service.
<b>Project:</b>	The "Project" is the name of the scientific program, field campaign, or project from which the data or service were collected.
<b>Quality:</b>	The "Quality" field allows the author to provide information about the quality of the service or any quality assurance procedures followed in producing the service.
<b>Access Constraints:</b>	The "Access_Constraints" field allows the author to provide information about any constraints for accessing the service.
<b>Use Constraints:</b>	The "Use_Constraints" field allows the author to describe how the service may or may not be used after access is

	granted to assure the protection of privacy or intellectual property.
<b>Distribution:</b>	The “Distribution” field describes media options, size, format, and fees involved in distributing the service.
<b>Related URL:</b>	The “Related_URL” field specifies links to Internet sites that contain information related to the service.
<b>Service Language:</b>	“Service_Language” describes the language used in the preparation, storage, and description of the service.
<b>SERF Revision History:</b>	The “SERF_Revision_History” allows the author to provide a list of changes made to the SERF over time.
<b>(Ancillary) Keyword:</b>	The “Keyword” field allows authors to provide any words or phrases needed to further describe the service.
<b>Multimedia Sample:</b>	The “Multimedia_Sample” field allows the author to provide information that will enable the display of a sample image, movie or sound clip within the SERF.
<b>References/Publications:</b>	The “Reference” field describes key bibliographic citations pertaining to the service.
<b>Parent SERF:</b>	The “Parent_SERF” field allows the capability to relate generalized aggregated metadata records (parents) to metadata records with highly specific information (children).
<b>IDN Node:</b>	The Internal Directory Name (IDN) Node “IDN_Node” field is used internally to identify association, responsibility and/or ownership of the service.
<b>SERF Creation Date:</b>	The “SERF_Creation_Date” specifies the date the metadata record was created.
<b>Last SERF Revision Date:</b>	The “Last_SERF_Revision_Date” specifies the date the metadata record was created or last revised.
<b>Future SERF Review Date:</b>	The “Future_SERF_Revision_Date” allows for the specification of a future service at which the SERF should be reviewed for accuracy of scientific or technical content.

*Service Entry Resource Format (SERF) Writer's Guide, 2010.*  
*Global Change Master Directory. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*